



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

BM06:109

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 23, 2006

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Urges Assembly Leaders to Move Forward with Redistricting Proposal

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson sent this letter to Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assembly Republican Leader George Plescia today urging them to move forward with a redistricting proposal during this legislative session:

August 23, 2006

The Honorable Fabian Nunez
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable George Plescia
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Speaker Nunez & Assembly Republican Leader Plescia:

Redistricting is an issue of vital importance that can and should be dealt with before the end of this year's legislative session. Although the window to place a redistricting measure on November's ballot has passed, I urge you to redouble your efforts before the end of session to craft a redistricting measure that we can put before the voters in 2008.

It is not too late to address this very important issue.

As you know, the current system for determining legislative boundaries is a system full of inherent conflicts of interest. The people of California deserve better.

I strongly believe California's redistricting process can and must be improved. I implore you, as leaders of the Assembly, to work in a bipartisan manner to reach a sensible solution to this problem. In my opinion, such a reform proposal should focus on core principles of fairness, balance, simplicity and transparency. It should maintain geographic integrity and reflect the equality and growth of our state's diverse minority populations.

As California's Chief Elections Officer, I am extremely committed and focused on encouraging greater participation in our electoral process. When people believe their vote counts, when the rules of the game force both sides to compete fairly for votes and when there's a chance it could go either way, people pay attention and participate in greater numbers in the process. That's why reforming our current redistricting process is so critically important to me.

Whether it has been as a newspaper editor, a member of the Legislature or Secretary of State, I've always believed Californians benefit from a redistricting process that creates districts that fairly represent our communities – where our families live, shop and send our children to school – and are drawn in an open, transparent and fair way.

As you move through this process, please know that I'm available to assist you in any way I can. I look forward to the day when fair redistricting that accurately reflects the people of California and benefits our democracy can be implemented.

Sincerely,

Bruce McPherson
Secretary of State